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THE EXTENSION HORTICULTURIST

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What are you placing on record today that will be of help to you when it comes to writing your report at the end of the season? A number of the specialists are now following the plan of gathering something each day that will help them in making a definite report of the progress of their work at the end of the season. Some are using the card system, others are compiling the information in the form of weekly or monthly reviews of the work accomplished. Read the outline of one specialist's report as contained in this issue.

Office of Horticultural and Pomological Investigations  
and States Relations Service Cooperating,  
U. S. Department of Agriculture,  
Washington, D. C.



## Concerning Annual Reports.

Wouldn't it be a mighty comfortable feeling if at the end of the year when you sat down to write your report you could take a folder or a block of cards from your files and have before you all the material necessary for a complete report, and all that was necessary would be the arrangement. This is not a dream of some extension horticulturist, but several of the state men have actually had this experience in their waking hours. This brings up the question of what a satisfactory report should contain. Had we the space, we would like to reproduce the complete report of one or two state specialists, however, a short outline of one of these must suffice, and follows.

### Report of Specialist in Vegetable Gardening December 1921.

#### Program of Work.

Under this heading in the report a complete outline of the program and plan of work by subjects, counties and communities is given.

#### Organization, Cooperation and Publicity.

Two counties have been organized carrying out the plans suggested by the central office in Washington. In the vegetable work particularly this type of organization is giving good satisfaction. The county organizations follow: A county vegetable project leader to be represented on each county board or agricultural executive committee. Under this leader an advisory or project committee with one or two men from each community, local unit or grange, whatever system the county organization may be. During November and December these men from the county are called together and a program of work for the following year decided upon. These men are made to feel their responsibility for the success of the work.

Cooperation in the vegetable demonstration work has been the very best. The subject matter department of the State College of Agriculture has given valuable assistance. Manufacturers of spraying and dusting machinery have loaned equipment and assisted in carrying on the work.

During the past year publicity with regard to demonstration work has been given special attention. Formerly this was left largely to the county agents and as a result it often happened that a part of the county or a portion of an adjoining county did not know what a given locality was doing. Under the present system the various vegetable project leaders in each of the counties receive a letter from the central office giving the results of demonstration work in various counties throughout the state. It is also planned that these letters will from time to time contain results of demonstration work in other states. The results of marked demonstrations are published in the monthly extension paper and also in a special sheet which goes to practically all the newspapers in the state.





## Records.

One of the hardest parts of extension work is to get accurate and adequate records. Under our present plan, record blanks go out with every demonstration that is outlined, however, very few of the records are ever made or sent in and the securing of these records is a problem yet to be solved.

## Individual Projects.

Under this heading there follows discussion of the methods employed and the results obtained with several special crops. As tomatoes are an important crop, both for canning and for the market in this state, the demonstrations included varieties, time of planting, fertilizers, the use of high grade seed, tomato seed saving, tomato leaf spot disease control, and various other problems connected with the tomato industry. Sweet potatoes are also grown extensively in the state and the work included variety trials to demonstrate varieties that would give best results under given conditions, fertilizer demonstrations with relation to the character of soil upon which the crop is grown, and the establishment of sweet potato seed certification. Two or three additional crops were handled in the same manner. One of the problems confronting the growers in this state is cabbage maggot control. Demonstrations were arranged in the leading cabbage growing sections to show the relative merits of corrosive sublimate, tar and sand, and the tar paper discs, as a means of controlling the injury of the maggot. These demonstrations included not only a record of the percentages destroyed under the different treatments, but the cost per acre and the results obtained. Celery and melon blight control were important demonstration problems and were handled in cooperation with the Pathological Department of the College. The results of these control measures were so pronounced that in the terms of one of the growers, "The results left no room for argument and there was but one conclusion that proper spraying must be done if the grower wanted to make a profit."

The report, consisting of about 30 pages is one of the most complete and comprehensive that has ever reached this office and is concluded with a statement relative to the junior extension work which consisted of the formation of a series of asparagus clubs, a tomato club, tomato canning club, sweet potato club, and pepper club.

## Home Gardens.

At this time of the year we are receiving a great many requests from people living in towns and cities for information on home gardening. The question ever arises in the minds of those doing horticultural extension work to what degree we are justified in giving assistance to people residing in towns. While our work is primarily with the farmers, it has always been our policy to give information and assistance wherever it is needed. The general welfare of the people and the upbuilding of agriculture in all of its forms is the primary consideration of our work and since improvement is founded wholly on education, anything that tends to educate the general public along production lines, will pave the way to a better understanding between the producer and consumer and ultimately result in the general improvement of horticulture, especially. In going about the backyards and sideyards of our city homes, one is impressed with the great need for the education of home owners in the matter of properly caring for their trees and shrubbery, also the need for instruction in the planting and care of small fruits and garden vegetables. It was with a view to furnishing information along these lines





that Farmers' Bulletins 750, "Roses for the Home," 1001, "Growing Fruits for Home Use," 1044, "The City Home Garden," and 1242, "The Permanent Fruit and Vegetable Garden," were written. These bulletins are of a general nature, supplying the kind of information that the person having a small place to cultivate actually wants. A number of the states have gotten out special literature of this character adapted to their needs, but the bulletins mentioned above apply very readily to general conditions for the greater part of the country. The only difficulty is that the editions of these bulletins are not large enough to meet all demands. Those of us who are connected with agricultural work here in the Department firmly believe in the advisability of promoting all types of home planting, especially that which yields either fruit or vegetables for the table.

A letter dated March 7, 1922 from R. B. Cruickshank.

"I am glad to report that following our year's efforts (Beach and I,) we are able to see organized the Ohio State Fruit Growers' Cooperative Association, with a start of nine locals. More are in prospect. They are organized much after the manner of the western New York association. We had Mr. R. W. Rees over to talk to us and he gave us some good information. Grades were adopted and we will have some real work cut out for us this fall in demonstrating these grades to packing house managers.

The March "Extension Horticulturist" is at hand today. In the report of the conference of the Southern Agricultural Workers, I find the name of L. B. Veeder, cited as a prominent peach grower of Georgia. Now it happens that he and I were friends in high school and that I have neither seen nor heard of him for 16 or 17 years. I shall surely write him. So you see the "Extension Horticulturist" is of value in other ways than just horticulturally."

#### Fruit Work in Wisconsin Temporarily Suspended.

It is with the deepest regret that we report the temporary suspension of fruit work in Wisconsin, owing to the illness of Mr. F. R. Gifford, which has necessitated his giving up extension work for this season. Mr. Gifford has done excellent work in Wisconsin and we hope his health will be completely restored so that he may return to his former position. It is expected that another specialist will be appointed for this season.

#### Photographs.

We are indebted to Prof. Tiebout of Louisiana for a number of splendid photographs showing exhibits made by the Extension Division at the Shreveport fair last autumn. The exhibits were for the purpose of showing the superiority of Wisconsin and Nebraska certified seed potatoes in comparison with common or uncertified seed. Another part of the exhibit, as shown by the photographs, brought out the possibilities of home improvement by means of native trees and plants.

#### Potato Specialist.

Mr. J. W. Weston has been appointed Extension Specialist in potato work in Michigan. For several years Mr. Weston has been county agent leader and potato specialist in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.



### We Like This.

The following is from a letter written by Prof. R. A. Van Meter of Massachusetts, and refers to Farmers' Bulletin No. 1242 on Permanent Fruit and Vegetable Gardens:

"I received your bulletin and want to thank you for it. I think that it will be very useful in conducting our demonstration gardens. Could you have 100 copies sent to me? We have planned to write a bulletin of this kind, but I think that your bulletin will do very nicely. It seems to fit our conditions very well."

### Wants Fifty Copies.

The Western Washington Experiment Station at Puyallup asks for 50 copies of Farmers' Bulletin No. 1242 on Permanent Fruit and Vegetable Gardens. Puyallup is situated in one of the great berry producing centers of the northwest.

### Official Callers.

On March 6, Prof. G. S. Ralston called at the office. He reports most satisfactory results in his fruit extension work and has met with a hearty response in the 10 or 12 counties in which he has been organizing the local fruit growing associations into county wide organizations. The presidents and secretary-treasurers of the locals compose the board of directors in the county units. There are from 5 to 15 locals in each of these counties.

The county executive committees will study the most pertinent needs of the fruit growers which are, better production and standardization, the former including the control of cedar rust, sooty smut, codling moth and scale, and the latter including grades and packs.

During the week beginning March 5th, Mr. C. H. Nissley, Vegetable Extension Specialist of the University of New Jersey, spent 4 days in Washington, going over reports and studying the methods followed by other state specialists in conducting their work. Mr. Nissley was also interested during his stay in Washington in looking up matters pertaining to the work of the American Vegetable Growers' Association of which he has recently been made secretary. Mr. Nissley had an opportunity to confer with a number of the men in subject-matter and experimental lines who are doing work with vegetable crops. Mr. Nissley expressed himself as well pleased with his visit which he termed as having been very profitable from the standpoint of his extension work in New Jersey. It is our hope that arrangements can be made so that other state specialists can from time to time spend a few days in Washington, exchanging ideas with the Department workers.

W. R. Beattie,  
Extension Horticulturist.

C. P. Close  
Extension Pomologist.

